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of the record as the other, making now Watson say what he does not say, and representing him as claiming authorship of the species—the very thing he is careful not to do. A correct citation of the "Index" would be "*Biscutella Californica* Benth. & Hook, ex Watson, etc.," which shows exactly what Watson says. This, in the ordinary course of abbreviation, becomes "*B. Californica* Benth. & Hook.," just as we cite Nuttall as authority for numerous species which he never published, "Nutt." being a convenient abbreviation of "Nutt., ex Torr. & Gray," or "Nutt., ex DC. Prodr.," etc.

This instance illustrates, also, another point, viz.: the difficulty of determining with certainty in any case who was really the first to use the new name. It may have first appeared in an overlooked catalogue or journal, or other out of the way publication, and any authority supposed to-day to be correctly given is liable to be ousted to-morrow. Not a few cases have occurred where a writer in the supposed application of the rule has innocently written his own name as authority for a species, to find a little later that some happier mortal was in advance of him.

But to return to our new species of *Disporum*. They are now, according to rule, under the assumed authorship of "N. or M.," and the absurdity of perpetuating an anonymous authority of this or any sort is evident. What shall be done? If we can not go back to "Benth. & Hook." we must go forward, and the only alternative that occurs to me is to cite the "GAZETTE." Under the usual formula "Coul. Bot. Gazette," therefore, the names will now appear as in column D. That looks well. But why single out one from among the worthy editors of the GAZETTE to father these poor foundlings? It can not be denied that they have an equal claim upon all three, and that "Arthur, Barnes & Coulter" is the only legitimate resource. In the necessary process of condensation this becomes inevitably A. B. C., and thus the column E is filled, and, having reached this conclusion, we have found at last an answer to the question with which we started.

| A. | B. | C. | D. | E. |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Disporum Menziesii</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum lanuginosum</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum maculatum</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum trachycarpum</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | Benth. & H. | Benth. & H. | Benth. & H. |
| <i>Disporum Hookeri</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum trachyandrum</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum Oreganum</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |
| <i>Disporum parvifolium</i> , Benth..... | Benth. & Hook. | N. or M. | Coul. | A. B. C. |

N. OR M.

From Northern Idaho.¹

From Camp Lakeside, at the south end of Lake Pend d' Oreille, Mr. Leiberg writes:

"I send by this mail a package of seventy species of mosses. They have been nearly all collected during the past three weeks, within a radius of two miles of this place, which is our winter camp. I have not yet col-

¹We "open" some private letters from Mr. John B. Leiberg, who is prospecting in Northern Idaho, to give our readers some glimpses of his botanical observations. Although almost constantly in the saddle, Mr. Leiberg finds time to collect the plants of the region, and has sent in a number of new species.—EDS.

lected at any great heights, as the snow lies several feet deep on the high peaks and ridges that surround us here. In about a month we will be able to cross over into the great North Fork of the Cœur d' Alene River basin, which lies immediately to the east of us. This basin abounds in high peaks, deep, dark cañons and chasms, waterfalls and cascades—just the conditions best suited to produce a flourishing growth of mosses, and I expect a rich harvest in these places. While this is a difficult country to collect in, one has at least the satisfaction of knowing that he is on ground on which *no one* has ever before collected.

"The moss flora seems to be wonderfully well developed here. To date I have observed over 110 species within a radius of four miles. I do not think it would be an overestimate to count upon at least 500 species of mosses for Kootenai county. But it must be remembered that this county covers a large area—nearly 7,000 square miles—and that nearly all conditions of climate and soil in the temperate regions of North America are found here. Lichens and fungi also abound in these excessively damp woods.

"At the northeast angle of the lake, about fifty miles from here, where Clark's Fork of the Columbia enters the lake, there exists a great sub-aqueous bank composed of the silt carried down by the river. Usually, during the months of August, September and October, the water is only two to three feet deep over some six square miles of this bank, and here grow and flourish Charas as possibly in no other place in the United States. The greater portion of the lake is without vegetation (except diatoms and desmids, which are found nearly everywhere), as the water averages 1,000 feet in depth; but wherever a shallow spot exists Charas grow the year around, for the waters of the lake freeze only in a few circumscribed localities.

"For many months whenever collecting I have searched for fertile specimens of *Neckera Menziesii*, but always in vain, until I had begun to think that it never fruited in this latitude. Judge of my surprise and delight when, a few days ago, I discovered on the bare face of a huge granite ledge a large tuft of *N. Menziesii* fruiting abundantly! This find has stimulated my endeavors to find fruiting specimens of the other sterile mosses I have collected here.

"As the season advances the species of *Hypnum* are coming to the front fast. There is an immense variety of this genus around here, and I add some every day to my collections.

"I am glad to hear that the water-lily was a new one [*Castalia Leibergi*, described in the May number of the *GAZETTE*], but the most remarkable circumstance is that so conspicuous a plant should have remained undiscovered by western botanists. It is hardly to be supposed that the insignificant little pond in which I found it growing is its only habitat. In this particular pond it is very abundant, growing with *Nuphar polysepalum* and *Brasenia peltata* among others."